

Coach Laurie leaves

LAURIE Churchill, who joined Wycombe Wanderers as assistant and coach to manager John Reardon during the summer, has left the club to take up a post with Woking.

The former Enfield and Hendon winger who was also with Chelsea and Crystal Palace left Wycombe last week. He joins up with personal friend Fred Callaghan, who took over as Woking's manager a month ago.

Mr Reardon said this week: "I'm sorry to lose him as he got on very well with the players. We had our differences but worked well together. I'm surprised he decided to leave."

For the moment Mr Reardon will continue on his own but an appointment is expected in the near future.



LAURIE CHURCHILL
... to Woking

WYCOMBE Wanderers, approaching their best form this season, pulled off a tremendous victory at Dagenham on Saturday — their first ever at Victoria Road in the Isthmian League and one that avenged a double defeat last season.

And although the scoreline looks close, the Blues were good value for the three points as Dagenham's goal didn't come until the 89th minute.

Since their crushing 3-0 reverse at Enfield, who look invincible at the top, Wycombe have won their last five matches. They faced their toughest test for some time at Dagenham, a side improving after a poor run. The conditions weren't easy either — a strong wind blowing down the length of the ground.

The wind, in fact, had a major bearing on the game. Wycombe used it reasonably well in the first half without scoring and then after the interval, they made some tell-

Dagenham 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2 REPORT BY STUART EARP

ing breaks against the elements to score twice through Graham Mackenzie and Dylan Evans. In contrast, Dagenham wasted their advantage by overhitting the ball repeatedly. That proved costly as even a minor miscalculation saw the ball whisked out of play by the 20 mph gusts.

Even so, Dagenham still had their moments but they found Wycombe's back four in no mood to be charitable. In front of them Howard Kennedy's powerful shooting was always a threat while Roger Day and Mackenzie played notable roles in the victory.

The forwards looked more effective facing the wind with Derek Harris having a fine second half. Evans and Mick Hollifield troubled a slow Dagenham back four with their pace and with more luck Evans might well have had a hat-trick. All in all, it was an impressive performance from Wanderers and their corner ratio of 12-3 is a good indication of their pressure.

Manager John Reardon was understandably thrilled with the victory, which was achieved without both Bob Davies and Steve Vass, who are both recovering from injury. Said

John: "This is a bonus victory. They beat us twice last season and it's always difficult down here. We lost to Sutton at the same stage last season and I think we are now seven points better off than we were after playing 22 matches."

SEVEN POINTS UP

The manager is quite right. Despite some mediocre performances earlier in the term, the Blues current record reads P22, W15, D2, L5, F40, A21, Pts 47 compared with last season's P22, W12, D4, L6, F33, A21, Pts 40 when they were top of the table.

Wanderers had the wind at their backs when they kicked off and it took them some time to adjust. Kennedy almost presented Mal Harkins with a goal by losing possession on the edge of the box but he soon made amends by forcing Willie Currie to give away a corner at the other end.

By catching Wycombe offside, Dagenham broke up several promising raids from the visitors whose approach work was marred only by poor control up front. It took some 36 minutes to create a clear cut scoring chance when Hollifield beat Peter Wellman in a 50-50 challenge and crashed in a shot which Ian Huttley did well to push away for a corner. At the other end Peter

Spittle's only anxious moment came when Harkins broke into the box but the goalkeeper anticipated the shot well.

Having failed to score with the elements in their favour, Dagenham would put Wycombe under severe pressure in the second half. But although they looked dangerous at times, it was Wanderers who took control of the game with some beautifully controlled football. They weighted their passes superbly into the gale and could easily have had four or five goals.

With linesman R. Francis taking over from referee Gordon, who pulled a calf muscle in the first half, Dagenham made the early running and only a lunging tackle from Alan Phillips halted Reg Harris inside the box.

HUGE DUMMY

Wanderers, however, weathered the early pressure well and hit back when Evans might have scored twice within a minute. Firstly a huge dummy by Hollifield put him through the defence but he took the ball too wide and then another through ball caught Dagenham square at the back. Dylan had a clear route to goal and struck his shot perfectly only to see Huttley tip the ball over with a magnificent save.

Dagenham continued to look suspect at the back as Wycombe played the ball up into the wind, catching Currie and Norman Welch short of pace. Reg Harris then twanged the ball over the edge of the box in the 50th minute, it looked as though Wanderers were going to get out of luck.

Three minutes later, however, they had the break they needed. Huttley on the ball from Welch and Mackenzie's call for a pass on the far side of the box. Huttley was timed to perfection and he ran on to place the ball past Huttley who was in two minds on his line. It was a perfect goal.

Dagenham hit back when Harkins forced a fine save from Spittle after 75 minutes but two minutes later Wanderers grabbed the vital second goal. Kennedy cut inside after receiving another fine ball from Harris and then unleashed a cracking drive which Huttley couldn't hold. Evans' reactions were a yard quicker than the defence and he popped home the rebound.

Evans might have scored another with five minutes left but he got underneath the ball from six yards and saw it sail over the crossbar.

Dagenham got their crumb of comfort in the last minute when Keith Mead misjudged a wind assisted goalkick from Huttley. Harris won the ball, ran on and then sent in a weak shot which Spittle allowed to go through his legs and into the net.

The late reply by Dagenham put a somewhat false look on the scoreline but did nothing to take away the credit of Wycombe's victory.

DAGENHAM: I. Huttley; P. Wellman, W. Currie, N. Welch, J. Mitchell; M. Harkins, R. Harris (sub S. Barrett 80 min); J. Bellamy, J. Dunwell, J. Holder, T. Harris.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, F. Currah; H. Kennedy, N. Day, G. Mackenzie, D. Evans, D. Harris, M. Hollifield, Sub R. Davies (not used).

Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Mackenzie (73), Evans (77). Dagenham — T. Harris (89).

Referee: G. Gordon (Raynes Park — sub R. Francis 45 minutes).